



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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Cindy L. Mester Named Assistant City Manager of City of Falls Church

FALLS CHURCH, VA. – City Manager Wyatt Shields announced today the appointment of Cindy L. Mester as Assistant City Manager of the City of Falls Church. Mester has served as Acting Assistant City Manager since September 2006 and as General Manager of Community Services since April 2005.

“I am pleased to have the opportunity to ask Cindy to be Assistant City Manager on a permanent basis. Cindy is smart, motivated, she follows through, and she is very active in the life of this City. I look forward to working with her,” says Shields.

As Assistant City Manager, Mester will be responsible for managing the development of the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) with a five-year financial forecast, overseeing the implementation of the CIP throughout the budget year, leading cross-departmental policy development and special projects such as continuity of operations planning, and serving as legislative liaison between the City and the Commonwealth of Virginia and federal governments.

Mester was first hired by the City in 2005 as General Manager of Community Services, with the City’s Recreation & Parks, Court Services, Housing and Human Services, and Mary Riley Styles Public Library divisions as direct reports. She has worked closely with these divisions over the past few years to develop and implement key initiatives.

Mester worked with the Recreation & Parks Division and the Recreation & Parks Advisory Board to help secure open space in accordance with the Council-adopted Open Space Plan. They successfully negotiated the purchase of 0.42 acres to expand the City’s newest park (Hamlett/Rees Park) and improve connectivity between the City’s trails.

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With a strong professional background in housing, Mester worked with the Housing and Human Services Division to secure adoption of the City's first affordable housing Capital Improvements Program. After years of policy development, this achievement helps meet the need for affordable housing by bringing \$150,000 for housing assessment in fiscal year 2007 and designating \$2 million for fiscal year 2008.

An involved member of the community, Mester led the Council-appointed yearlong Hurricane Katrina Relief Task Force. With community support, the Task Force raised more than \$160,000 in aid and hundreds of pounds of donated supplies.

Committed to community development on all levels, Mester is involved with numerous community organizations in the City of Falls Church, including the Falls Church Housing Corporation, Falls Church Arts, Friends of Cherry Hill, the Village Preservation and Improvement Society, and numerous other regional organizations.

"I am honored to serve the City's dedicated staff and engaged community in a new leadership role. Over the past few years, I have developed a strong connection to this community rich with history, culture, and an involved citizenry. I am proud to work with a strong team of City staff committed to the highest level of public service and a City Council loyal to the community it represents. I look forward to continuing the City's good work as we move forward over the years to come," says Mester.

With 27 years of experience in local government, Mester began her career with Loudoun County in the Parks and Recreation Department. She went on to manage mental health/mental retardation programs and later served as the Director of Loudoun County Housing Services from 1991-2005.

Mester, age 47, holds a bachelor's degree in Therapeutic Recreation from Longwood College and a Master of Education in Community Agency Counseling from the George Mason University School of Education. She also completed the Leading, Educating, and Developing (LEAD) program at the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service in 1999.

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Note: A photo of Cindy L. Mester is attached. Photo Courtesy: City of Falls Church.